

NEWS RELEASE

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PTC inspires sixth-grade girls with “Women in Technology” event

PINE CITY, Minn. – Pine Technical College is in the midst of planning its eleventh annual *Women in Technology* (WIT) two-day event. The event means PTC will host more than 260 sixth-grade girls from six area schools, on campus to learn about careers in hi-tech industries. The event, organized by PTC faculty and staff members, features hands-on demonstrations, a tour of the college and guest presentations such as “Fun with Robotics,” “Making Silver Metal,” “The Energy Industry,” “Virtual Reality,” “What’s in My Lipstick?” and more. It will run Tues. Mar. 8 and Wed. Mar. 9.

“Research has shown girls at this age begin to formulate ideas regarding what careers they may see themselves pursuing in the future,” says PTC Dean of Student Affairs Nancy Mach. “We’ve designed this event to help young girls see and imagine themselves in roles where they are contributing to advanced, hi-tech industries. Many girls at this impressionable age are forming thoughts about what they want to do when they grow up, and this kind of field trip makes a lasting, positive impression,” Mach adds.

This year’s WIT event features an opening presentation, “Medical Career Exploration,” from Denise Ganz, Career Center Coordinator with Mora High School, and a closing keynote session, “Explain Your Brain,” presented by a team of ambassadors from the Science Museum of Minnesota, with many more hands-on workshops in between.

“Everyone is especially excited this year to have two outstanding keynote presentations – one to kick-start the event, and another to close the event. We are very fortunate to be able to offer such valuable sessions this year,” says Sandi Carlisle, Executive Assistant to the President, Pine Technical College, and WIT Planning Committee Chair. “Denise is so full of energy, so vibrant, and so passionate for student learning and career exploration; she just exudes enthusiasm! She’s kind of like a one-woman pep rally for students. I can’t imagine a more fitting opener for this kind of event – the girls will love it!” Carlisle adds.

The event runs for two days, and by the time it concludes Mar. 9, nearly every sixth-grade girl from Braham, Grantsburg, Wisc., Mora, Pine City and Rush City will have experienced WIT. Sixth-grade girls from Braham Area Elementary School in Braham, C.E. Jacobson Elementary School in Rush City, Grantsburg Middle School in Grantsburg, Wisc., Pine City Elementary in Pine City, St. Mary’s School in Pine City and Trailview Elementary School in Mora are participating in this year’s WIT event.

“Every year, we look forward to sending our sixth-grade girls to this event,” says Wendy Wall, Counselor at Grantsburg Middle School. “They come back with such enthusiasm for careers in technology and science they may not have considered yet,” Wall adds.

The 2012 WIT event is tentatively scheduled for Mar. 6 and 7, 2012. For more information, call 320-629-5114.



Photo: Sixth-grade girls from various schools around Pine County gather to learn from a presenter at the 2010 *Women in Technology* event at Pine Technical College.

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